

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 EB-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3619

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, UR, US

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF VISA FOR KOVNER.

REF: STATE 216003

1. I CALLED ON KORNIYENKO NOV 2 AND MADE PRESENTATION
PER REFTTEL, EMPHASIZING THAT IN OUR VIEW KOVNER'S QUALIFICATIONS
AND BEHAVIOR ARE IMPECCABLE.

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, KORNIYENKO MADE THESE POINTS:

A. HE WOULD NOT AGREE THAT U.S. HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING
ON VISAS LAST YEAR U.S. REFUSED VISAS FOR KASHLEV AND
KUZNETSOV TO GO TO THE UN, JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE EXPELLED
FOR NO REASON FMROM THE UK. SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERED IT
IMPORTANT THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO WORK AT THE UN.

B. KOVNER WAS EXPELLED IN RETALIATION FOR A U.S. ACTION
AGAINST A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WHO WAS COMPLETELY IN THE CLEAR;
WOULD THE U.S. NOW GIVE THAT SOVIET DIPLOMAT A VISA?
KORNIYENKO ADDED THAT THIS WAS MERELY MEANS OF
EXPLAINING SITUATION, NOT A PROPOSAL.)

C. IT IS NOT THE SOVIET SIDE THAT BEARS RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR FACT THAT VISA IS DENIED TO U.S. OFFICIAL
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RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE RELATIONS; IT WAS THE U.S. SIDE THAT

PLACED HIM IN THAT JOB, EVEN WHILE AWARE OF EVENTS IN HIS PAST.

3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, I NOTED THAT ACTIVITIES OF KASHLEV AND KUZNETSOV WERE KNOWN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC IN U.S. I ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH KORNIYENKO ASSERTION THAT ANDREEV'S EXPULSION FROM U.S. WAS WITHOUT GROUNDS.

4. HAVING ASKED SEVERAL TIMES FOR URGENT RECONSIDERATION OF THE KOVER CASE ONLY TO BE MET BY NEW ARGUMENTS FROM KORNIYENKO, I ASKED IF I SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS REFUSING TO RECONSIDER. AT THAT POINT KORNIYENKO SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF THE PROBLEM AND HAD NOT EVEN KNOW THAT WE HAD APPLIED FOR A VISA FOR KOVNER; HE THEREFORE WOULD NOT "RECONSIDER" THE MATTER BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND "CONSIDER" IT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT AN "EXCEPTION" HAD BEEN MADE IN GRANTING KOVNER A VISA WHEN ACCOMPANYING THE SHULTZ DELEGATION.
DUBS

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